

REMARKS

Claims 20, 22, 25-27, and 30-50 are pending in the current application. Claims 20, 22, 25-27, and 30-50 currently stand rejected, and claims 20, 22, 26, 27, 30-38, 40-42, 44-46, and 48-50 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 20, 22, 25-27, and 30-50 are respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

Entry of Supplemental Amendment Requested

This supplemental amendment is intended to replace the previous amendment submitted with a Request for Continued Examination on October 23, 2008. This Amendment contains the same amendments and remarks as the previous October 23, 2008 response, with additional claim amendments to claims 22, 26, 27, 30-34, 36, 38, 40-42, 44-46, and 48-50. The additional amendments to these claims mirror the previous changes made to independent claim 20 and argued below, simplifying the Examiner's consideration of all claims. No first office action following the October 23, 2008 RCE has been issued; thus Applicants respectfully request entry of this Supplemental Amendment as a Preliminary Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115, except in the instance that it would unduly interfere with the preparation of a first office action already underway.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 20, 25-27, 30-33, 35-37, 39-41, 43-45, and 47-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat 6,483,983 to Takahashi et al. ("Takahashi"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

With respect to claim 20, the Examiner replies to the Applicants' previous response that Takahashi discloses each and every element of this claim, including "each thumbnail picture being stored as a block of menu data" by its disclosure of a picture array menu, because this language allows each thumbnail picture to be stored separately. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 has been amended to recite "**the group of thumbnail pictures being stored together as a block of menu data.**" Takahashi's picture array menu cannot meet this recited storage arrangement of thumbnail pictures. Specifically, Takahashi discloses only methods of visually displaying and reproducing thumbnails in an on-screen array, and is silent regarding how these thumbnail images are physically stored on a computer-readable medium. See Takahashi, Col. 2, ll. 34-37. Even where Takahashi potentially suggests a thumbnail storage scheme, it is that the thumbnails are not stored as a "block of menu data" but rather in **disparate, plural positions** – not in the same menu data block. See, e.g., Takahashi, Col. 2, ll. 46-50. Thus, Takahashi does not disclose the thumbnail picture storage arrangement as recited in claim 20.

Because Takahashi does not teach or fairly suggest each and every element of claim 20, Takahashi cannot anticipate or render obvious this claim.

Claims 30-33 are equally allowable over Takahashi at least for being amended to recite a similarly unique thumbnail image storage scheme as claim 20. Claims 25-27, 35-37, 39-41, 43-45, and 47-49 are allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 20, 25-27, 30-33, 35-37, 39-41, 43-45, and 47-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 22, 34, 38, 42, 46 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of US Pat 5,917,830 to Chen et al. ("Chen"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Chen does not cure, nor does the Examiner apply Chen for curing, the disclosure and suggestion deficiencies discussed above in Takahashi. Specifically, Chen does not disclose a menu block physically storing thumbnail images as recited in the independent claims. Because Takahashi, alone or in combination with Chen, fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 20 and 30-33 as amended, these references cannot anticipate or render obvious claims 20 and 30-33. Claims 22, 34, 38, 42, 46 and 50 are allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 22, 34, 38, 42, 46 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 20, 22, 25-17 and 30-50 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ryan Alley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



Ryan Alley, Reg. No. 60,977
Gary D. Yacura, Reg. No. 35,416
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

GDY/REA : tlt